



NEWS RELEASE

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Marion Cotterman Named Minority

Small Business Champion of the Year 2005

Cheyenne – Marion Cotterman, works for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and is the contact for the Business Enterprise Program. Marion has been selected as the Minority Small Business Champion of the Year 2005 by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The award will be presented to Ms. Cotterman at the Governor's Breakfast being held at Little America in Cheyenne on Tuesday, May 3rd.

Each year since 1983, the President designates one week for recognition and celebration of the accomplishments of minority entrepreneurs. The award selection includes evaluation of growth in sales, profits, and employees; participation in community and charitable affairs; overcoming adversities; uniqueness and special attributes of the business; and the use of other minority firms as suppliers or subcontractors.

For the past three years Marion has been involved in a special project with the Small Business Development Center, the Women's Business Center, and the Wyoming Business Council. These organizations planned for three years to implement the YinSITE project. They wrote a grant and received a \$1.2 million grant from the Department of Family Services. This grant targeted low-income families with dependent children. Several of these clients were eligible for services through Marion's organization. She worked in all aspects of this project and put in many hours to make it a success.

Marion has a special interest with visually impaired clients and has taken courses to better assist this particular group. Other noteworthy experiences included her employment as the Equal Opportunity Officer for the Department of Workforce Services for several months. She is also a member of the Rocky Mountain Inventor's Association.

Marion's nominator, Debbie Popp, Associate State Director of the Small Business Development Center has known Marion for approximately eight or nine years. Debbie says, "I first met her in Wisconsin at a Home-Based Business Conference. I have always held a deep respect for Marion. She is truly passionate in her work and the clients she works with. She is a great resource for this state".

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